

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216861
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
DLOS-09 OES-09 ACDA-12 NEA-10 HEW-04 /070 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:PGARLAND:AB
APPROVED BY AF/E:GBEYER
DOD/ISA:SCHARLES

-----112829 260456Z /21

R 252003Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, US, ET

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON NAMRU RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3617

1. PER REFTEL FOLLOWING INFO PERTAINING TO NAMRU-3 RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA DURING THE PERIOD 1965-1977 IS
PROVIDED:

BY INVITATION OF AND BY AGREEMENT WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERN-
MENT THE US NAVY BEGAN CONDUCTING COLLABORATIVE MEDICAL
RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROBLEMS IN ETHIOPIA IN 1965.
THE RESEARCH UNIT IN ETHIOPIA WAS INITIALLY A DETACHMENT OF
THE PARENT NAMRU-3 IN CAIRO, EGYPT AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME
A SEPARATE COMMAND IN 1974. THE UNIT'S MISSION WAS TO
CONDUCT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF
IMPORTANCE TO THE US NAVY AND TO ETHIOPIA. BOTH US AND
ETHIOPIAN PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH PROGRAMS
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CONDUCTED IN THE FIELD AND AT THE BASE LABORATORY IN ADDIS
ABABA. AS SUCH ETHIOPIAN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES WHICH CONSTITUTED TWO-THIRDS OF THE STAFF WERE
FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE UNITS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES. IN
ADDITION, ALL PROPOSED FIELD WORK REQUIRED PRIOR REVIEW
AND CONCURRENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH.
PUBLISHED RESULTS OF THE UNIT'S ACHIEVEMENTS WERE PROVIDED

THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE PUBLISHED IN ETHIOPIAN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE (ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL). SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE UNIT'S TWELVE YEAR HISTORY INCLUDE: STUDIES OF THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF LOUSE-BORNE RELAPSING FEVER; IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY VECTORS OF MALARIA IN THE ETHIOPIAN LOWLANDS; MAPPING OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF FILARIASIS, ONCHOCERCIASIS, SLEEPING SICKNESS AND ANTHROPOD-BORNE VIRAL INFECTIONS; IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR INSECT VECTORS; EVALUATION OF SELECTED DRUGS FOR THE CHEMOTHERAPY OF MALARIA, TYPHUS, SMALLPOX, GONORRHEA AND TYPHOID FEVER; COMPARATIVE EVALUATIONS OF INSECT REPELLENTS FOR PREVENTION OF ONCHOCERCIASIS AND SLEEPING SICKNESS.

2. AT NO TIME DURING ITS EXISTENCE DID THE UNIT CONDUCT BIOLOGICAL WARFARE RESEARCH.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE216861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PGARLAND:AB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780349-0685
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780822/aaaaasel.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c4a755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 3617
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1617267
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON NAMRU RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PEPR, US, ET, NAMRU-3
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c4a755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014